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Nasution Rates as Sukarno Heir

General Calls Self Non-Red But Party Could Score Gains

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Daily News Foreign Service

JAKARTA, Indonesia—When Sukarno goes, his successor is likely to be either Lt. Gen. Abdel Harris Nasution or Dipa Nusantara Aidit, leader of the Indonesian Communist Party.

The odds are on Gen. Nasution, who is Sukarno's minister of defense.

At present Indonesia is not a democracy. This fifth most populous nation in the world discarded the parliamentary system in 1957.

The experiment had not been a success. The government changed on an average more than once a year as politicians bickered for power and prestige.

FOR PARLIAMENTARY democracy Sukarno substituted a system of "guided democracy" centering power in his own hands at the expense of Indonesia's 29 political parties.

But the army, since it is large (350,000), well equipped and, in the Indonesian context, reasonably well disci-

plined, and since it has direct responsibility for administering much of the country, necessarily plays a large role in formulating and implementing policy.

NASUTION is a 45-year-old Sumatran and a professional soldier. He was trained by the Dutch before World War II and by the Japanese during their occupation of Indonesia.

He is handsome, vigorous and proud. He steers clear of Jakarta social life and his one recreation is tennis.

The young general, who supports Sukarno and mimics many of the president's mannerisms, has a reputation for anti-communism that a few observers contend will not bear close scrutiny.

Helped Put Down Communist Revolt

Those who say that Nasution is anti-Communist (and this includes American military personnel here) base this judgment on the fact that Nasution played a leading role in crushing the Communist rebellion of 1948 and since then has, from time to time, moved against the Partai Komunis Indonesia or PKI, as the Communist Party is called here.

It is also true, however, that Nasution moved equally vigorously to crush the anti-Communist rebellions of 1957-1958 and that for every blow



The Indonesian Community Party (PKI), here meeting in a Jakarta stadium, is the nation's best organized political group. (AP)

the PKI he has leveled another against the anti-Communist and non-Communist political parties.

NASUTION has described himself as neither anti-Communist nor pro-Communist but non-Communist, and this is probably a reasonable evaluation of his political philosophy.

But being a non-Communist in Indonesia in effect means having a pronounced political tilt to the left. The official view held here is that the Communists are just another political party, that they represent no threat to freedom and are not the agents of foreign powers.

The Communist Party itself, of course, has done everything possible to push that line. Aidit's PKI has been just as vociferously pro-Sukarno

as any other Indonesian party.

TWELVE YEARS ago the membership of the Indonesian Communist Party was 7,910. Today it is 2,500,000, making the PKI the third largest Communist Party in the world after those of Russia and Red China.

But the Communists have even greater strength than their huge membership would indicate. In Indonesia's last general election, in 1955, a total of 37,800,000 voters went to the polls.

The PKI polled 6,200,000 votes, 16.4 per cent of the total. On the militarily and politically key island of Java, the Communists got more than 5,000,000 votes.

That showing entitled them to 39 seats in the 257-member



GEN. NASUTION
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